

Air

VENUS
OBB-2811

Chief, WE

29 December 1954

Operational/HIMAY/PARISHONY
Himay Projects in Brussels

Ref: OBBW-1751, []

1. In OBBW-1751 Headquarters inquires as to the extent of joint control achieved [] in the [] in projects VENUS and []. This dispatch is being written in an effort to explain the current situation with respect to those operations and a third possibility.
2. With respect to project VENUS, we have not pressed to have [] take over direction of the operation. [] continues to handle contacts with "Peter". It may be recalled by the HIMAY desk officer immediately concerned with this operation that [] is in the administrative section of the []. He is an elderly man who recently lost the second of his two sons. The VENUS project is his only case; in fact, according to [] it is practically his life. He travels to Liege to see "Peter" before and after the latter's contacts with KOVACS, then draws up a draft of his own and "Peter"'s comments, submits the draft to [] office where editorial corrections are made and copies typed for [] the reports section of the [] for us and for []. [] does not receive a copy of the final version of his reports. [] claims that he has talked with [] about aggressively pushing the operational side of the project, but [] prefers not to become involved in anything other than the passive receipt of the reports for the intelligence they may contain on emigre groups in Belgium. However, [] alleges that he has pressed [] to acquire more personality data on KOVACS and he feels that some progress will be made. [] obviously prefers not to make an issue on his own of [] handling of the case principally because of the human factors involved. He also feels that [] would not be inclined to make a change for the same reason. In view of the additional opportunity afforded for an approach to KOVACS through [] [] feels that the question of [] handling of "Peter" demands at the moment somewhat less urgent solution than previously. [] will, however, try to get from project VENUS the type material Headquarters and we desire to have in view of the end in mind.
3. The situation with regard to project [] has developed in such a manner as to preclude the

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preclude the necessity of our making available to [] the [] material presented in ONBW-2410 (see []). Furthermore, no indication has been made to [] or [] that we have had "recent access to a source whose information will probably have great bearing on the conduct of the case". Since we are in on the case already and considering the revelations of the local SDECE representative, Jean-Claude FICHARD, which have been made the subject of a separate dispatch, there seems to be no urgency to reveal [] or [] information from the source in question. In fact, it would appear insecure to do so, considering that the French seem to have access to the same source. However, if the [] based on the source's information has been completed and can be forwarded [] for our information, our handling of these HITWAY cases would be greatly assisted.

4. In this connection, the attention of the HITWAY desk is directed to OBBA-2432. It is entirely conceivable that, by carefully following up that case with [] we may arrive at another avenue of approach to KOVACS. In this instance, particularly, we believe that [] would benefit by having available for background purposes material on the subject of OBBA-2432, from "the recently acquired source". Unless we were sure that [] was not participating in any case involving the Subject of OBBA-2432, we should be rather reluctant to make available to the [] any material forwarded [] from that source. For the moment, the greatest benefit which we could derive from collateral material on the Subject of OBBA-2432 would be an indication of how likely a target for doubling he is. If he is carrying out his intelligence missions as avidly as the material accompanying OBBA-2432 suggests, we may not have very much success in an effort to make a willing, cooperative double agent of him. However, we should like to explore all the possibilities for doubling him before reaching a conclusion on that point.
5. Meanwhile, we should appreciate receiving from Headquarters a comment on []. We have for answering EAVA-8755, a dispatch which asks a series of questions regarding project VENUS and requests a review of the operation since August 1953. We have in the past forwarded to Vienna reports from the operation which appear to be of specific interest to that station. If it is desired that copies of all dispatches on all Brussels HITWAY projects be sent to Vienna base, we desire to be so instructed by Headquarters.

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